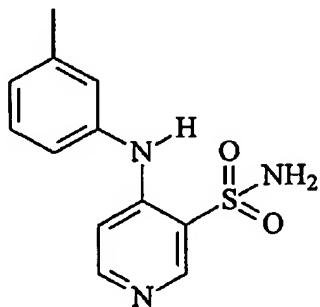


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (currently amended): A process for preparing torsemide or salts thereof comprising:

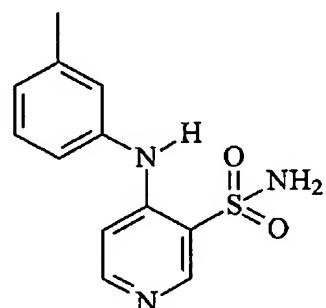
- a) reacting a compound of formula II



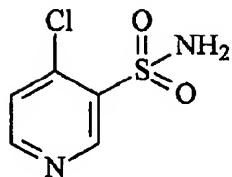
- with isopropyl isocyanate in the presence of an alkali carbonate or bicarbonate and an organic solvent to form an alkali torsemide mixture,  
b) recovering the alkali torsemide mixture as a salt, [[and]]  
c) optionally recovering the torsemide by acidification of the alkali torsemide mixture[[.]] and  
d) wherein said process is carried out in the absence of triethylamine.

Claim 2 (canceled)

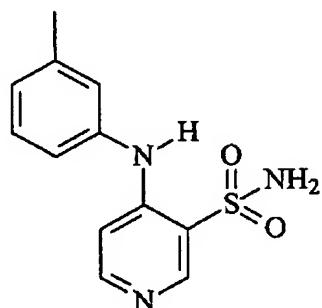
Claim 3 (currently amended): A process for preparing a compound of formula II



comprising reacting a compound of formula I



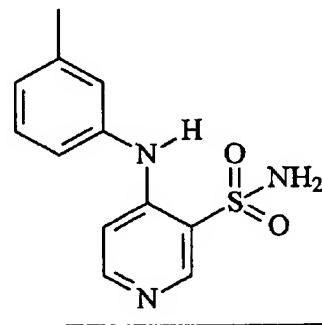
with m-toluidine in an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of a C1 to C6 alcohol to form a compound of formula II



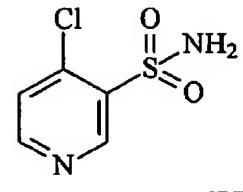
wherein said process is carried out in the absence of at least one of the following:

- i) — a copper catalyst; and/or
- ii) — triethylamine.

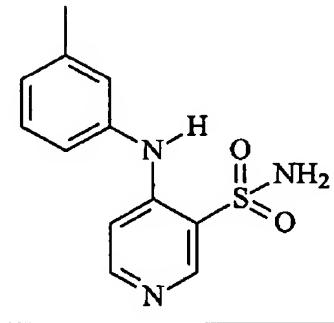
Claim 4 (currently amended): ~~The process of claim 3 wherein the C1 to C6 alcohol is n-butanol.~~ A process for preparing a compound of formula II



comprising reacting a compound of formula I



with m-toluidine in an organic solvent selected from the group consisting of n-butanol to form a compound of formula II



wherein said process is carried out in the absence of at least one of the following:

- i) a copper catalyst; and/or
- ii) triethylamine.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the alkali carbonate is sodium carbonate, potassium carbonate, or lithium carbonate.

Claim 7 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the alkali bicarbonate is sodium bicarbonate, potassium bicarbonate, or lithium bicarbonate.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the organic solvent selected from the group consisting of acetone, ethyl acetate, acetonitrile, methyl isobutyl ketone and mixtures thereof.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the alkali torsemide mixture is converted to torsemide by dissolving in water followed by acidification.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the acid used for acidification is a water soluble acid.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The process of claim 1 [[or 2]] wherein the acid used for acidification is acetic acid.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The process of claim 1,3 or [[2]] 4 wherein the purity of the torsemide is at least about 99.5%.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The process of claim 1,3 or [[2]] 4 wherein the purity of torsemide is at least 98%.

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)